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Labour Market Information Monthly

December 2009 Edition

Issue 12 Volume 6

CANADA'S POPULATION: AGE AND SEX[1]

Canada's population continues to get older. As of July 1, 2009, the median age of Canada's population was 39.5 years, up 0.2 years from the same date last year and up 3.1 years from 1999. Fertility rates persistently below the generation replacement level, and an increasing life expectancy, are the main factors explaining the ageing process of the Canadian population.

The most recent demographic projections indicate that the median age could reach 44.0 years during the 2030s. As of July 1, 2009, Canada's youngest population was in Nunavut, where the median age was 24.2 years and where children aged less than 15 represented 32.1% of the population. Among the provinces, Alberta had the lowest median age (35.6 years). Conversely, Newfoundland and Labrador had the highest median age of the country (42.9 years).

This Month

- Canada's Population: Age and Sex
- Key Labour Force Statistics
- The Industry Report

The working-age population, comprising people aged 15 to 64, is also getting older. As of July 1, 2009, the median age of Canada's working-age population was 40.5 years, up from 38.4 years in 1999. Most of the baby boomers, the largest population cohorts in Canada's history, are now part of the 45 to 64 age group. As of July 1, 2009, this age group accounted for 40.4% of the nation's working-age population, the highest proportion observed so far. In 1999, about one-third of Canada's working-age population was between the ages of 45 and 64. From 1999 to 2009, the proportion of persons aged 30 to 44 within the working-age population fell from 36.6% to 30.1%. The proportion of persons aged 15 to 29 was relatively stable, edging down from 29.9% to 29.5%.

The current age structure of Canada's working-age population is similar to that of many countries that are members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). According to the latest international data available, 39.7% of the working-age population of France and Germany was in the 45 to 64 age group. Japan was among the leading OECD countries with 41.8% of its working-age population being in that age group.

This proportion of the 45 to 64 age group within the working-age population is approaching a plateau that could remain relatively stable until the beginning of the 2030s. Beginning in 2011, baby-boomers will progressively leave the working-age population. As a result of the importance of the baby boom cohorts and the baby bust that followed, the size of the working-age population would also get smaller in the years to come. As of July 1, 2009, the working-age population accounted for 69.5% of the Canadian population. This proportion could go down quickly to about 62.0% at the beginning of the 2030s and could continue to edge down afterwards.

Canada still has one of the lowest proportions of seniors among the OECD countries. As of July 1, 2009, seniors aged 65 and over accounted for a record high 13.9% of the Canadian population, while children aged less than 15 constituted 16.6 %. Canada's proportion of seniors was below the OECD average of 14.3%. Countries with a proportion of seniors higher than Canada's average include the United Kingdom (16.0%), France (16.6%) and Germany (20.2%). However, the United States had a lower proportion of seniors, with 12.8%.

[1] From Statistics Canada's *The Daily*, November 27, 2009.

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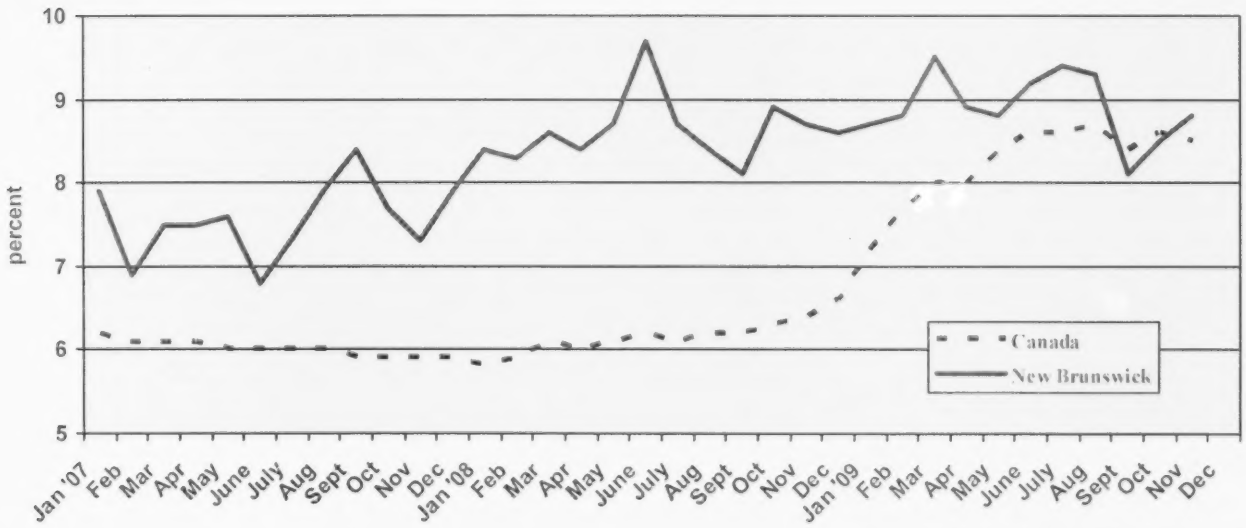
KEY LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS FOR NEW BRUNSWICK (Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey)

New Brunswick	YTD	November '09	October '09	November'08
Labour Force	402,200	**403,300**	403,600	401,900
Employed	366,300	**367,800**	369,400	366,800
Unemployed	35,800	**35,500**	34,200	35,000
Unemployment Rate	8.9%	**8.8%**	8.5%	8.7%
Participation Rate	64.7%	**64.8%**	64.9%	64.9%
Employment Rate	59.0%	**59.1%**	59.4%	59.2%

CANADA COMPARED TO NEW BRUNSWICK

In November, Canada's unemployment rate was 8.5%, 0.1 of a percentage point lower than last month but 2.1 percentage points higher than the same time last year. New Brunswick's rate of 8.8% was 0.3 of a percentage point higher than last month and 0.1 of a percentage point higher than the same time last year, when it also stood at 8.7%.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN NEW BRUNSWICK AND CANADA



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

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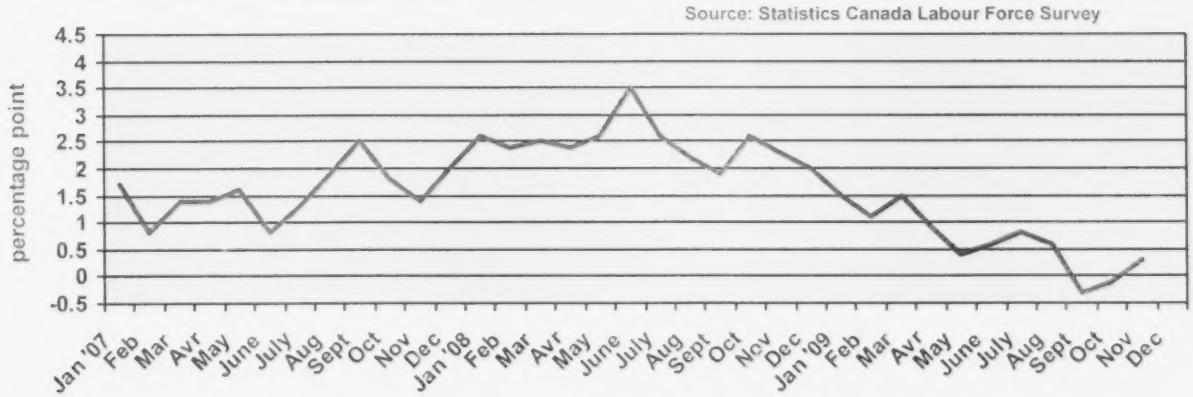
CANADA COMPARED TO NEW BRUNSWICK (continued)

The gap between the national and provincial rates was 0.3 of a percentage point in November.

DIFFERENCE IN UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN NEW BRUNSWICK AND CANADA

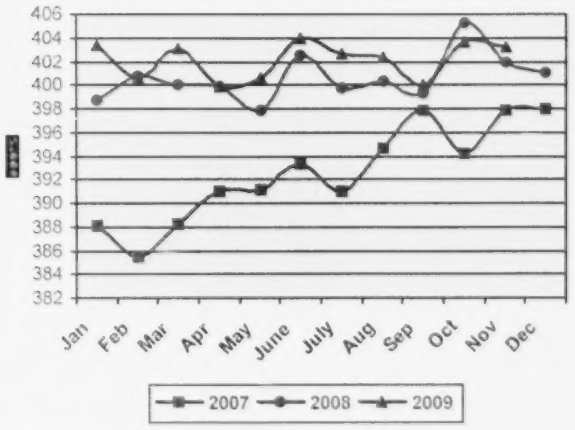
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey



THE LABOUR FORCE

New Brunswick's labour force stood at 403,300 in November. This represented a decrease of 300 over last month, but an increase of 1, 400 over the same time last year.

THE SIZE OF THE LABOUR FORCE



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

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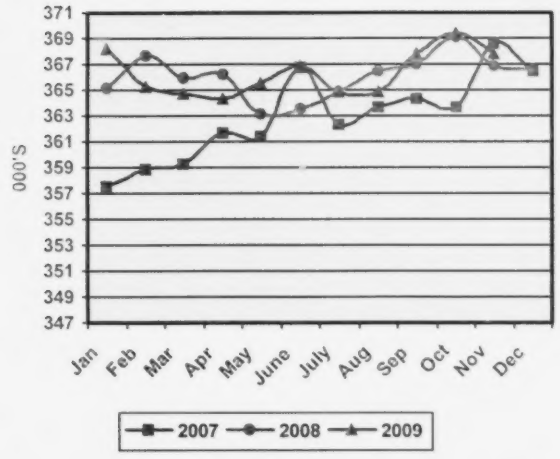
EMPLOYMENT

There were 367,800 people working in November. This was 1,600 less than last month but 1 000 more when compared to the same period last year.

EMPLOYMENT IN NEW BRUNSWICK

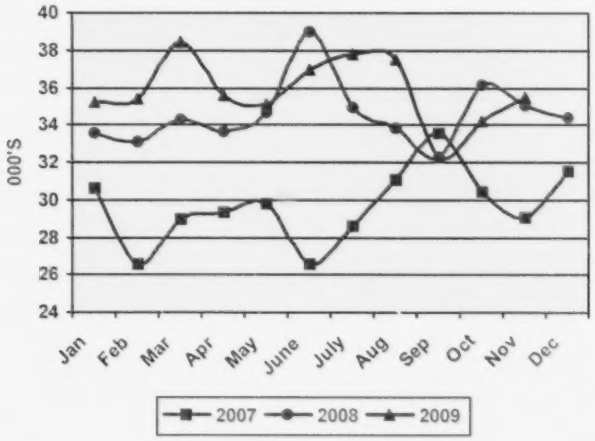


Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

UNEMPLOYMENT

There were 35,500 people unemployed and seeking work in November. This is 1,300 more people than what was recorded last month and is 500 more compared to the same period last year.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN NEW BRUNSWICK



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

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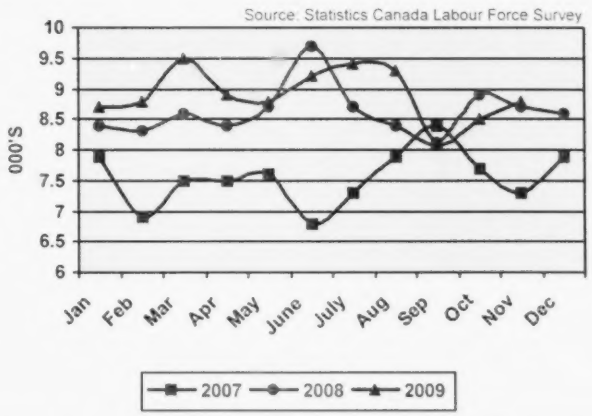
THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

New Brunswick's unemployment rate of 8.8% in November was 0.3 of a percentage point higher than last month and was 0.1 of a percentage point higher compared to the same time last year.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN NEW BRUNSWICK



THE ECONOMIC REGIONS

Statistics Canada reports labour force statistics for the economic regions as three month moving averages of actual (not seasonally adjusted) data.

November'09	Economic Regions				
	Northeast	Southeast	Southwest	Central	Northwest
Labour Force	73,600	114,400	94,700	73,000	44,800
Employment	64,700	107,700	89,200	69,100	40,700
Unemployment	8,800	6,700	5,500	3,900	4,000
Unemployment Rate	12.0%	5.9%	5.8%	5.3%	8.9%
Participation Rate	54.5%	67.9%	65.8%	68.4%	65.8%

Economic Regions	YTD		November'09		Novmember'08	
	Emp.	UR	Emp.	UR	Emp.	UR
Northeast	63,600	15.4%	64,700	12.0%	67,000	14.1%
Southeast	105,600	7.7%	107,700	5.9%	107,600	5.6%
Southwest	90,600	6.2%	89,200	5.8%	87,600	6.0%
Central	67,000	7.3%	69,100	5.3%	67,100	5.6%
Northwest	39,700	10.2%	40,700	8.9%	40,300	7.4%

On a year-over-year basis (November 2009 compared to November 2008), employment increased in the Central (+2,000); Southwest (+1,600); Northwest (+400) and Southeast (+100) economic regions while employment decreased in the Northeast (-2,300) region.

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THE INDUSTRY REPORT

Employment growth on a year-over-year basis was strongest in the following sectors*:

Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing (17.3%) – In November of 2009, there were approximately 17,600 people employed in this sector. This is the seventh month in a row where the monthly employment level recorded was stronger than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in only 12 of those months. So far this year (Jan. to Nov. 2009), employment is 5.4% higher than last year (Jan. to Nov. 2008).

Accommodation and Food Services (16.0%) – In November of 2009, there were approximately 26,100 people employed in this sector. This is only the third month in a row where the monthly employment level recorded was stronger than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in only 9 of those months (6 happening during the first 9 months of this period). Even though things for this sector are looking up, so far this year (Jan. to November. 2009), employment has actually declined by 3.0% when compared to the same time period last year.

Agriculture (12.1%) – In November of 2009, there were approximately 7,400 people employed in this sector. This is the fifteenth month in a row where the monthly employment level recorded was stronger than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in 16 of those months. So far this year (Jan. to Nov. 2009), employment is 23.1% higher than last year (Jan. to Nov. 2008)

Construction (11.1%) – In November of 2009, there were approximately 28,100 people employed in this sector. This is the ninth month in a row where the monthly employment level recorded was stronger than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in 16 of those months. So far this year (Jan. to Nov. 2009), employment is 13.0% higher than last year (Jan. to Nov. 2008). All indications suggest the provincial infrastructure program combined with the federal economic stimulus plan and the booming urban centres of Moncton, Saint John and Fredericton are all working together to push construction employment levels higher than last year.

Includes the top three growth sectors and all sectors that posted a 10% or greater (year-over-year) increase in employment.

Employment was weaker on a year-over-year basis in the following sectors**:

Utilities (-26.4%) – In November of 2009, there were approximately 3,900 people employed in this sector. This is the eighth month in a row that this sector has experienced a year-over-year decline in employment. Over the last 24 months this sector has recorded year-over-year employment gains 15 times. So far this year (Jan. to Nov. 2009), employment has declined by 12.5% when compared to the same time period last year. This decline may be attributed to the fact that the Canaport

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THE INDUSTRY REPORT (continued)

LNG project in Saint John and the associated LNG pipeline as well as a number of other large construction projects are winding down.

Health Care and Social Assistance (-6.1%) – In November of 2009, there were approximately 48,000 people employed in this sector. This is the sixth month in a row that this sector has experienced a year-over-year decline in employment. Over the last 24 months this sector has recorded year-over-year employment gains 17 times. So far this year (Jan. to Nov. 2009), employment has declined by 1.4% when compared to the same time period last year.

Educational Services (-5.1%) – In November of 2009, there were approximately 26,100 people employed in this sector. This is first month in the last 14 where the monthly employment level recorded was weaker than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in 14 of those months. So far this year (Jan. to Nov. 2009), employment has increased by 9.1% when compared to the same time period last year, much of this may be a result of the continued investments this government is making into the education sector.

** Includes the bottom three growth sectors and all sectors that posted a 10% or greater (year-over-year) decrease in employment

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